

28th March 1970 League Match v. Walthamstow Avenue (away)

Walthamstow Ave. 1, Wycombe W. 5

A TONY HORSEMAN hat-trick accentuated Wycombe Wanderers' superiority at Walthamstow on Saturday, and put them firmly back on top of the Isthmian League. It also secured their biggest (score-wise) away win in the competition.

Four coachloads of Wycombe supporters made the journey to the Avenue's ground, but met an ungracious reception from a home side fielding, due to injuries and holiday calls, six reserve team players.

Within seconds, Walthamstow had taken a shock lead when a free kick by skipper Peter Terry on the half-way line, found John Brookes standing on the penalty spot to head to the right, where Brian Collett hit a cross shot into goal by the far post.

Wycombe refused to panic in any way, however, and were soon back on terms with a 13th-minute equaliser begun, again, by a free kick. Hutchinson passed possession to John Delaney, who met the kick by heading it into the top left-hand corner.

Four minutes later, Janes overlapped on the right and crossed for Munn to head just over the bar. But the game was almost entirely being taken by Wycombe to the home defence.

Avenue offered isolated attacks, without upsetting either Maskell or Delaney's back row, but Wanderers' tight marking found disfavour with the home crowd. Two flare-ups, involving Suddaby and Delaney in turn, livened things in midfield.

Wycombe went ahead in the 29th minute. Hutchinson made ground down the right wing before crossing to Searle, who missed his connection with the ball, which was eventually powered into goal by Geoff Anthony via a left-footed shot.

Making a desperate bid to pull back into the game, Avenue mounted a sharp move involving McDermid, Roseman and Collett. Quick inter-passing put Collett within reach of the goal but, although shooting past Maskell, he missed the target by inches.

Walthamstow's main 'prompt' came in midfield where former Hoddesdon Town player-manager Johnny Mann egged them on, while still finding time to keep an eye on Horseman.

The elusive Tony was hardly a prisoner, though, and proved it by scoring goal number three in the 43rd minute. Searle took advantage of a Janes miskick, breaking clear in the centre circle before crossing the ball for Horseman to run in by the far post and deliver a shot which Bowley completely misjudged.

Janes meanwhile had landed badly and needed treatment on a badly bruised back.

Four minutes later Barry Baker chipped in with a shot on the run which Bowley did well to tip over the bar for a corner, but Roseman gave Walthamstow the parting shot of the half, beating Maskell with a pinpoint drive, only for no one to meet the ball in the goalmouth.

If there was still any question of a Walthamstow fightback, it was soon erased after half-time.

Horseman, whose return after injury recently had been — by more than mere coincidence — the turning-point for a Wycombe attack undergoing a goal famine, netted twice to complete his hat-trick.

A high upfield punt put Tony away on his own — 'offside' in the boisterous opinion of Walthamstow players and fans alike and, while the referee waved play on, 'keeper Bowley had little chance to prevent a fourth goal after 48 minutes.

Six minutes later, Wanderers were awarded a free kick on the outside edge of Avenue's penalty area. Delaney slipped the ball to Horseman, who reacted swiftly with a searing crack into the top corner of the net.

Disheartened by the state of the scoreline, and the fluid 4-2-4 system Wycombe had set up, Walthamstow buckled to try for a further consolation goal.

It never came. But then Wycombe's goal spree had also been stifled.

Still suffering from his earlier back injury, Janes left the field to be replaced by Taylor in the 62nd minute. And, as time ran out, so Avenue had a couple of goalscoring chances only to waste them both. Guilty parties were initially McDermid and, soon after, Munn.

Walthamstow Avenue: V. Bowley; M. Janes (sub.: C. Taylor), R. Cane; T. Smith, P. Terry, J. Mann; B. Collett, N. Munn, J. Brooks, A. McDermid, J. Roseman.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; I. Rundle, C. Gale; P. Suddaby, J. Delaney, K. Blunt; G. Anthony, B. Baker, K. Searle, A. Horseman, J. Hutchinson. Sub.: K. Stephenson (not used).

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WYCOMBE'S ONLY defensive mistake allowed Walthamstow's Collett through for a first-minute goal.

Marksman of the match was Wycombe's inside left Horseman with three goals, each one a gem, especially the first, a picture-book header from Searle's centre. The visitor's first goals came from Delaney and Anthony.